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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[17 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Bahrain: grave abuses of Human Rights

Since the HRC 28, June2015 to pre HRC30, Sept2015, Bahrain witnessed further erosion of human rights amid deterioration of the political crises engulfing the country since 14 Feb. 2015.

The most alarming development in the course of eroding human rights which flared on 10 March 2015.The details are in separate memo. What is being well known from the photos, videos and testimonies of prisoners released or still in detention, is unprecedented, comprehensive, and group penalty against the political and rights prisoners at Jao Prison, which is still going on through denial of medication of the wounded and sick, crowdedness, accommodation in tents, contagious skin disease and denial of visitation for many.

Instead of setting independent investigation committee, as rightfully demanded by UN HCHR, Amir Zaid Al-Husain , at his HRC29 opening speech on 16 June, and seconded by several HRC member states and major HROs, 47 inmates at Jao Prison are being prosecuted on charges of attacking Jao Prison guards and demolishing properties, while police assistants enjoys immunity

Aside with the major aspects of serious, systematic and large scale human rights abuses such as extrajudicial killing, torture up to homicide, arbitrary arrests, dawn raids of houses, unfair trials, crack down of peaceful protests, clamp down on freedom of expression and massive penalties such as siege and gassing whole premises, and discrimination, new serious abuses prevailed.

The undermining of legal political life by targeting the licensed political organizations. This is manifested in various means. Alwfaq, the largest political and opposition party, which secured 62% of votes in the parliamentary elections of 2010, with 18 MPs out of 40 MPs of the House of Representative, has been denied approval of the results of its Conference held on 25 Dec. 2014 till today by The Ministry of Justice , which oversee political organizations .More alarming is the prosecution of AlWefaq for its statement alleged to incite hatred against the state, intentionally disseminating false news that threatens public peace and homeland security, call for illegal marches, and indignation of

The Ministry of Interior and foreign state
The leaders of Alwefaq., was charged with plotting to topple down the government, and promoting defiance of laws, hatred of the state and false news that destabilize the country. He was sentenced to four years imprisonment , and drop of treason charge punishable for 10 yeaqrs imprisonment on 26 May 2016, but was appealed by The Public Prosecutor to re-instate treason charges. His defense team has been harassed by the Courts police, and were denied basic judicial rights. They expressed repeatedly that the trial is unfair, which is explained in separate memo.

Mr. MajedMelad, meber of Al-WfaqShura (Council) has been sentenced to two years imprisonment on charges of tweets inciting hatred among sects and defaming the state. Sayed Jamil Kadem, head of AlWefaqShura , was released recently after serving 6 month imprisonment on charges of tweets on election corruption, considered to be false, adversely affecting the election and defaming the state.

These accusations against Alwfaq leaders and the party are baseless, as Alwefaq advocates peaceful means of opposition to reform Bahrain rule and not topple it. Actually the three leaders have been engaged in negotiation with the Bahraini Rule, headed by CP Sh.SalmanAlkhalifa.

The second opposition organization, WAAD, has been targeted also. The ex Secretary General, Mr Ebrahim Sharef, serving 5 years imprisonment on phony charges, since 17 March 2011, was released on 17 June 2015 after serving more than three fourth of his sentence thus eligible for early release, but he was re-arrested on8 July2015 on the saqme charges, of which defamation and disposal of state, inciting public to topple the government. This is completely contrary to all statements during short period of freedom, where he offered mediation between the government and the opposition for peaceful solutions and advocated peaceful struggle for constitutional monarchy
The Secretary General of opposition Alwahdwi Society, Mr Fadel Abas, is being prosced . in custody, for tweeting critical comment on The GCC military campaign against Yemen. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment

It is very clear that the Bahraini Rule could not tolerate Alwefeq, WAAD and opposition as a whole not subduing to its dictation, the latest of which was to participate inthe parliamentary elections in Nov. 2014, which was boycotted by the opposition and wide public, thus denied the Rule of its legitimacy.

The other aspect of undermining legitimate political activities has been sanctioning licensed demonstrations, and meeting for the last 9 months, thus forced public to unlicensed demonstrations and meetings which have been quelled with excessive force resulting in hundreds of causalities and arrests.

The Civic Life has been undermined too. The latest amendments on The Law on Clubs & Society, deny dual membership of political organization and NGO, the dual membership of sport union & NGO, the membership of NGO Board & another NGO.Independent NGOs are denied of outside funding and membership of joint government & NGOs such as Steering Committee on UPR.

The mass denaturalization of indigenous Bahrainis (72 lately), on phony charges has targeted political and rights activists, both in and outside Bahrain. Consequently the majority became stateless, where the government charges them with illegal residence, and deny them of basic rights in education, work, health, identification documents..,etc. Denaturalization texts in the amended Law on Citizenship includes court verdict as penalty, decision by Minister of Interior, seconded by PM, and decreed by The King, on wide range and vague pretexts such as disloyalty, insulting local and fraternal authorities, slandering state reputation ...etc. Actually its manipulated to denaturalize the political dissidents and rights activists, as the case of 50 out of 72 denaturalized lately, to order to undermine opposition polity and independent CSOs.

The other aspects of human rights abuses, such as quelling protests with excessive force, deadly targeting protesters, break inn private houses at dawn, arbitrary arrests without warrants, unfair trials with disproportionate penalties, and torture up to death have increased drastically.

Freedom of expression including those of social media has been further restricted, where tweets lead to minimum 6 months imprisonment, against rights activists such as Mr. Nabil Rajab (released by Royal Order), Nader Abdulemam (released after serving sentence) and Ms. Ghada Jamshir (released after serving sentence on one charge but another 10 charges awaits her).

It is clear that political and rights leaders are being targeted to pacify the legitimate opposition and independent rights movement by different means and using flawed laws and twisting acts and statements out of context .Practicing legitimate political rights, civic rights ,freedom of association, freedom of expression, and freedom of belief, which are unpleasant to the state , are penalized by denial of citizenship, physical and moral attacks ,arrests, prosecution, and imprisonment. This has affected adversely the majority of Bahraini people , contrary to The Constitution of Bahrain, despite its shortcomings, the major UN conventions, and recognized international human rights.

The UN Secretery Gen. Ban Ky Mon, expressed concern for Sh. Ali Salman sentence and asked for fair re-trial The HCHR Amir Zaid bin Raad, has expressed concern for Jao Prison evebnts and demanded independent investigation, and comprehensive dialogue between the government and the opposition at HRC29 opening speech. He again expressed concern on Sh. Ali Salamn sentence and Sh. Maytham Al-Salamn arrest. Several major democratic states, members of UN and HRC plus EU, expressed concern towards human rights abuses and urged for comprehensive national dialogue to resolve the crises, on several occasions , including statements at HRC29, but in vain .5 UN Special Rapporteurs, major international HROs, MPs and prominent figures around the world, have expressed criticism and concern for these abuses , urging The Kingdom of Bahrain , to pacify the situation to normality, engage in serious negotiation to safe outlet of the crises, and ensure the fundamental rights of Bahrainis on equal bases.

We urge HRC member states to put Bahrain on HRC30 agenda and issues significant resolution, as requested by 12 major HROs Coalition, led by HRW. To send strong signal of the international community to the Kingdom of Bahrain, that human rights crises should be terminated.
We hope that HRC28 and member states, HCHR, President of HRC, and HROs with UN consultative status will address Bahrain human rights situation seriously.